2/2/86 58895-1

WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

VOL. 23 NO. 1 JAN. 1986

TREND SETTERS

WYOMING	Oct '85	Nov. '85
Labor Force	245,411	243,892
Employment	230,340	224,854
Unemployment	15,071	19,038
Rate (Raw)	6.1	7.8
Rate (S.A.)	6.9	8.3
Mining Hourly Wage	$13.66	$13.34
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	43.2	45.5
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	7.1	7.0
Mining Hourly Wage	$11.95	$11.95
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	43.3	43.3
Consumer Price Index		
All Urban 1967 = 100		
U.S. City Avg.	325.5	326.6
Denver (Bimonthly)	359.4	
Year Change (U.S.)	+3.2	+3.6

S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted

THE NATIONAL SCENE

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that in the U.S. unemployment totaled 8.1 million out of a civilian labor force of 116.1 million in November, seasonally adjusted. Adult women accounted for nearly 70 percent of the annual labor force growth of 2.0 million, or 1.7 percent.

The unemployment rate, at 7.0 percent, was about the same as in October and November 1984 with both recording rates of 7.1 percent. Half of the unemployed reported that they had lost their jobs and the average duration of unemployment rose to 16 weeks.

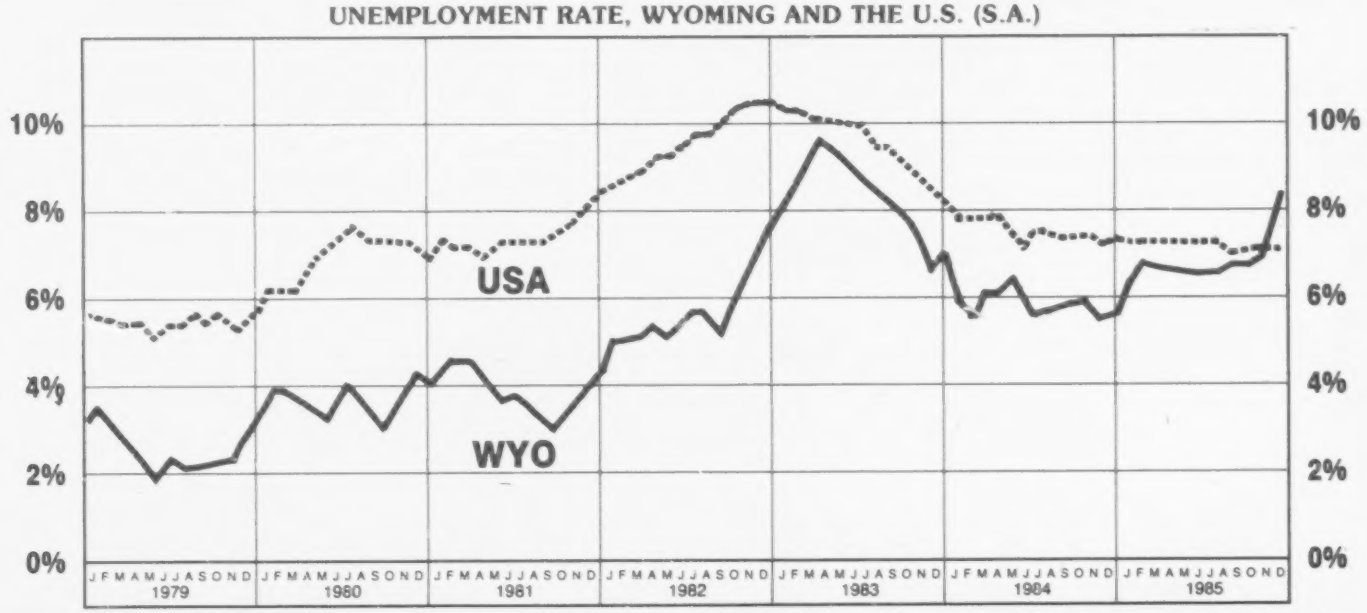
IN WYOMING

The seasonal nature of the Wyoming economy came into sharp focus during the second coldest November on record. Unemployment jumped over-the-month from 6.1 to 7.8 percent in November, due primarily to weather related layoffs in construction and mining.

The Wyoming seasonally adjusted rate of 8.3 percent jumped substantially above the U.S. level of 7.0 percent and compared to 5.6 percent in November 1984. Preliminary December data indicates that unemployment continues to escalate sharply and, if historical trends hold true, will not peak until January or February 1986.

Wyoming's November labor force, at 243,900, reflected the seasonal downturn from October and continued to lose workers on an annual basis - about two percent, compared to November 1984.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S. (S.A.)



WYOMING EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, Research & Analysis Section

COUNTY TRENDS

Lincoln County continued with the highest annual labor force gain while Fremont County again registered the greatest labor force loss. Albany County had the lowest unemployment at 4.9 percent. Niobrara County had the fewest jobseekers, 150 unemployed, followed by Sublette County with 172 jobseekers. The highest unemployment was in Fremont County, at 10.2 percent, followed by Converse and Niobrara counties both at 9.5 percent.

Only two counties indicated substantial annual labor force growth in November - Lincoln and Sublette counties were up 16 and 17 percent in construction related employment gains. Campbell, Laramie and Sweetwater counties also indicated annual employment growth.

NEIGHBORING STATES

October unemployment rates, unadjusted for seasonality, are the most current data available for other states. Montana (6.8) and Idaho (6.2) had higher unemployment when compared to Wyoming's October rate of 6.1 percent. The remaining contiguous states of Utah, Colorado, Nebraska and South Dakota had lower rates of 5.3, 5.5, 5.0 and 4.5 percent respectively. West Virginia, at 12.5 percent continued with the highest unemployment in the United States and New Hampshire had the lowest at 2.6 percent.

WORLD AGRICULTURE

The United States is considered one of the greatest agricultural nations in the world. Recently, much attention has been focused on the American farmer and his problems of making a living. Below are some interesting agricultural statistics from the ***A.C.A.*** (American Council of American Education Foundation Inc.) ***Food Globe.*** Copies of the pocket-sized "globe" are available from: A.C.A. Education Foundation, 1250 I Street Northwest, Suite 601, Washington D.C. 20005.

A.C.A. AGRICULTURE STATISTICS

	% of Population in Production of Agriculture [1]	% of Personal Spending Food Consumes [2]	Food/Fiber Trade Balance [3] (Billions)	Minutes Worked to Earn 1 lb. Pork	1 lb. Bread	doz. Eggs
United States	2.1	12.7	$ 24.7	17	3	5
Australia	5.6	17.1	$ 8.3	14	2	20
Brazil	37.4	41.0	$ 6.9	31	4	14
United Kingdom	2.0	17.3	$ 8.1	14	2	11
Soviet Union	15.8	33.7	$-15.2	40	8	73
Japan	10.4	21.5	$-16.9	43	7	9
China	70.0 [4]	60.0	$- 0.2	500	200	375
Italy	10.6	29.2	$- 9.2	20	2	10
France	8.2	18.5	$ 3.6	18	2	8
Canada	4.8	14.5	$ 2.3	11	9	6
Mexico	35.2	40.0	$- 1.2	33	3	11

Footnotes:

[1] 1981. Source: U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization.

[2] 1980. Source: U.N. ***Yearbook of National Accounts.*** It should be noted that this is the total expenditure for food, excluding alcoholic beverages, as a percent of total personal spending in a country.

[3] 1980. Source: U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization ***Trade Yearbook.***

[4] Percentage of the Labor force in Agriculture.

[5] Sources: For the Soviet Union, International Economics Division, Economic Research Service, U.S.D.A.; for the Peoples Republic of China, official reports; for all others, ***Retail Prices of Foreign Countries,*** U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics—U.S.D.A. Foreign Agricultural Service.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1967 = 100)

ALL URBAN

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD	HOUSING	RENT	APPAREL	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
November 1985	326.6	311.0	355.0	271.7	211.2	323.2	413.0
Annual % Change	3.6	2.3	4.1	6.6	2.9	2.2	6.6

WAGE EARNERS AND CLERICAL WORKERS

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD	HOUSING	RENT	APPAREL	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
November 1985	322.6	310.6	348.3	270.7	210.2	324.6	410.9
Annual % Change	3.4	2.3	4.2	6.6	2.9	2.0	6.6

ACCRA* COST OF LIVING COMPARISONS – THIRD QUARTER 1985

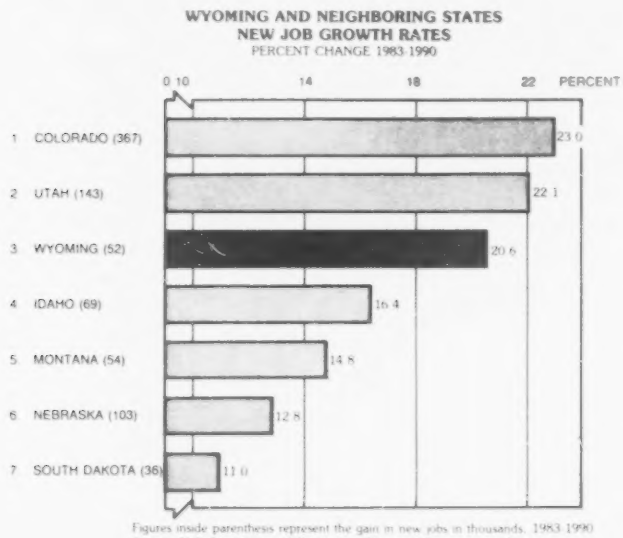
	All Items	Groceries	Housing	Utilities	Trans-portation	Health Care	Misc.
Component Index Weights	100%	17%	22%	11%	13%	7%	30%
U.S. Average	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wyoming Cities:							
Casper	99.3	97.6	87.5	96.5	96.1	111.2	108.5
Evanston	104.1	104.6	105.2	94.9	106.4	109.0	104.1
Neighboring Cities:							
Billings, MT	104.4	106.5	124.4	81.4	91.9	111.0	100.9
Denver, CO	107.6	105.8	134.9	75.1	110.1	111.7	98.7
Omaha, NE	96.0	93.4	90.1	96.3	93.9	98.2	102.1
Rapid City, SD	96.4	111.3	91.5	77.0	101.5	111.4	92.9
Salt Lake City, UT	101.7	102.9	97.2	93.0	101.9	105.5	106.6
Twin Falls, ID	93.3	96.2	91.7	64.3	96.4	108.3	98.7
Highest U.S. City	139.1	137.6	195.5	172.9	136.3	184.2	135.0
	Anchorage AK	Anchorage AK	Fairfield CT	New York NY	Nashua NH	Anchorage AK	Anchorage AK
Lowest U.S. City	87.8	88.2	71.4	52.5	77.9	68.6	86.4
	Joplin MO	Joplin MO	Murray KY	Seattle WA	Janesville WI	Dyersburg TN	Canton OH

Source: AACRA American Chamber of Commerce Research Association

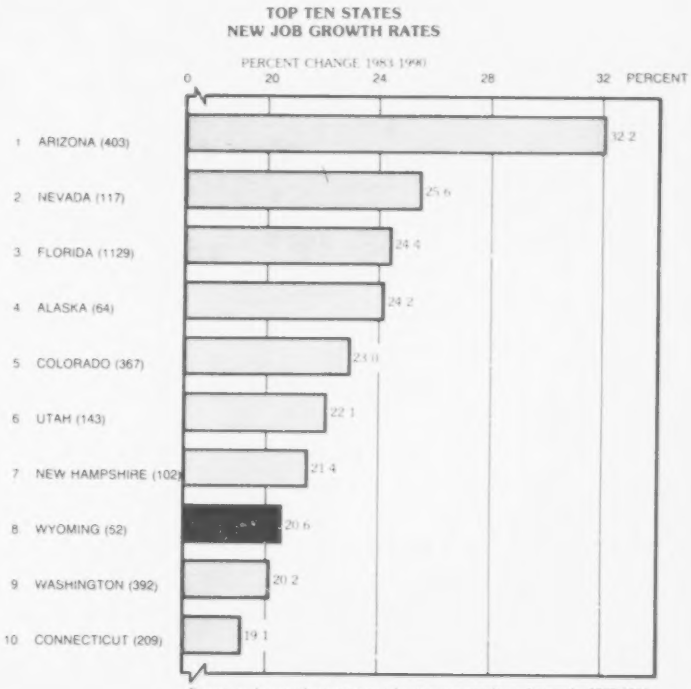
NEW JOB GROWTH

The U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, takes nationwide Bureau of Labor Statistics job growth projections and develops growth rates for the states. According to its most recent analysis, all states will gain jobs between 1983 and 1990. The largest growth in numbers will occur in California, Texas, and Florida, each of which will add more than a million jobs.

The fastest growth rates will be in Arizona (32.2 percent), Nevada (25.6 percent), and Florida (24.4 percent). Not all the gains will be in the Sun Belt, however, Alaska, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Wyoming are among the 10 states increasing by the largest percentage. Wyoming ranked 8th overall with a growth rate of 20.6 percent. Colorado had the fastest growth rate of Wyoming's neighbors at 23.0 percent. Please note the W.E.S.C. Analysts feel that the information included in this article did not take into consideration the current economic situation.



Figures inside parenthesis represent the gain in new jobs in thousands, 1983-1990
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis
Prepared by: W.E.S.C. Research and Analysis, December, 1985



Figures inside parenthesis represent the gain in new jobs in thousands, 1983-1990
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis
Prepared by: W.E.S.C. Research and Analysis, December, 1985

Table 1

WYOMING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ITEM	NOV 1985 [1]	OCT 1985 [1]	NOV 1984 [2]	Percent change From A Month Ago	Percent change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	243,892	245,411	248,659	- 0.6	- 1.9
Unemployment	19,038	15,071	13,130	26.3	45.0
Employed Labor Force	224,854	230,340	235,529	- 2.4	- 4.5
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law)[3]	189,900	191,500	191,813	- 0.8	- 1.0
b. Agriculture[3]	11,125	12,936	11,331	- 14.0	- 1.8
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seas. Adj.*	7.8% 8.3%*	6.1% 6.9%*	5.3% 5.6%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adj.*	6.7% 7.0%*	6.8% 7.1%*	6.9% 7.1%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.)[4]	2.3%	1.7%	1.8%	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 606.97	$ 590.11	$ 571.86	2.9	6.1
Average Weekly Hours	45.5	43.2	42.9	5.3	6.1
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 13.34	$ 13.66	$ 13.33	- 2.3	0.1
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	19,931	17,633	16,898	13.0	17.9
a. Initial	4,399	3,486	3,104	26.2	41.7
Weeks Compensated	13,335	13,284	11,106	0.4	20.1
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 2,028,815	$ 2,031,651	$ 1,430,102	0.1	41.9
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 151.41	$ 152.29	$ 128.48	- 0.6	17.8
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
New Applications Received During Month	4,479	3,595	3,929	24.6	14.0
Non-Ag. Openings Received	3,542	3,438	3,228	3.0	9.7
Non-Ag. Placements	3,428	3,137	3,064	9.3	11.9
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 517.44	$ 517.44	$ 505.91	0.0	2.3
Average Weekly Hours	43.3	43.3	43.5	0.0	- 0.5
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 11.95	$ 11.95	$ 11.63	0.0	2.8
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1967 = 100	326.6	325.5	315.3	0.3	3.6
Producer Prices, All Commodities	309.7	308.0	310.3	0.6	- 0.2
Retail Prices of Food 1967 = 100	311.0	309.8	304.1	0.4	2.3

[1] Preliminary. [2] Final. [3] Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. [4] Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provisions.

Table 2

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	NOV 1985	OCT 1985	NOV 1984	%CHANGE OCT-NOV	%CHANGE NOV-NOV	NOV 1985	OCT 1985	NOV 1984	NOV 1985	OCT 1985	NOV 1984
Statewide	243,892	245,411	248,659	- 0.6	- 1.9	19,038	15,071	13,130	7.8	6.1	5.3
Albany	14,475	14,393	15,380	0.6	- 5.9	712	578	491	4.9	4.0	3.2
Big Horn	4,870	4,844	5,125	0.5	- 5.0	446	350	282	9.2	7.2	5.5
Campbell	19,279	18,613	18,997	3.6	1.5	1,501	1,125	883	7.8	6.0	4.6
Carbon	8,871	9,025	9,402	- 1.7	- 5.6	801	699	549	9.0	7.7	5.8
Converse	6,781	6,879	6,959	- 1.4	- 2.6	644	493	396	9.5	7.2	5.7
Crook	2,751	2,755	2,854	- 0.1	- 3.6	255	196	165	9.3	7.1	5.8
Fremont	15,719	16,240	16,856	- 3.2	- 6.7	1,606	1,337	1,151	10.2	8.2	6.8
Goshen	6,671	6,949	6,949	- 4.0	- 4.0	379	287	305	5.7	4.1	4.4
Hot Springs	2,788	2,711	2,973	2.8	- 6.2	205	112	121	7.3	4.1	4.1
Johnson	3,689	3,705	3,790	- 0.4	- 2.7	297	187	135	8.1	5.0	3.6
Laramie	34,598	34,450	34,337	0.4	0.8	2,441	1,704	1,542	7.1	4.9	4.5
Lincoln	7,146	7,101	6 138	0.6	16.4	652	454	510	9.1	6.4	8.3
Natrona	38,008	37,563	38,482	1.2	- 1.2	2,908	2,393	1,980	7.7	6.4	5.1
Niobrara	1,572	1,612	1,671	- 2.5	- 5.9	150	143	95	9.5	8.9	5.7
Park	11,747	12,723	12,816	- 7.7	- 8.3	868	719	688	7.4	5.6	5.4
Platte	3,911	4,009	4,369	- 2.4	- 10.5	348	294	264	8.9	7.3	6.0
Sheridan	10,863	11,005	11,706	- 1.3	- 7.2	958	774	851	8.8	7.0	7.3
Sublette	2,887	3,020	2,462	- 4.4	17.3	172	173	99	6.0	5.7	4.0
Sweetwater	21,083	20,682	20,008	1.9	5.4	1,656	1,364	1,009	7.9	6.6	5.0
Teton	5,937	6,691	6,351	- 11.3	- 6.5	529	406	705	8.9	6.1	11.1
Uinta	11,903	11,689	12,040	1.8	- 1.1	929	742	526	7.8	6.4	4.4
Washakie	4,999	5,236	5,294	- 4.5	- 5.6	371	278	200	7.4	5.3	3.8
Weston	3,343	3,513	3,700	- 4.8	- 9.6	209	263	182	6.2	7.5	4.9

The ESC wishes to stress that the data contained in this table are only estimates. The data for the current month is a preliminary estimate and will be revised next month, and revised yet again in about one year. On an annual average basis, the accuracy of these estimates may vary from the actual figures by as much as eight percent, plus or minus.

Table 3

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change on Total Emp.	
	NOV 1985[2]	OCT 1985[3]	NOV 1984	OCT 1985	NOV 1984
	Total	Total	Total	to NOV 1985	to NOV 1985
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	197.4	201.7	195.8	- 2.1	0.8
Manufacturing	8.6	8.9	9.0	- 3.4	- 4.4
Durable Goods	4.0	4.1	4.4	- 2.4	- 9.1
Nondurable Goods	4.6	4.8	4.6	- 4.2	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.1	1.2	1.1	- 8.3	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	188.7	192.8	186.8	- 2.1	1.0
Mining	26.4	26.4	26.6	0.0	- 0.8
Contract Construction	9.4	10.8	12.2	- 13.0	- 23.0
Transportation & Public Utilities	16.4	16.7	15.7	- 1.8	4.5
Railroad Transportation	4.5	4.7	3.3	- 4.3	36.4
Transportation except Railroads	5.7	5.7	5.8	0.0	- 1.7
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	6.3	6.3	6.6	0.0	- 4.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	42.3	42.9	44.7	- 1.4	- 5.4
Wholesale Trade	8.9	9.1	9.1	- 2.2	0.0
Retail Trade	33.4	33.8	35.6	- 1.2	- 6.2
Food Stores	5.0	5.0	5.2	0.0	- 3.8
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	5.9	6.0	6.2	- 1.7	- 4.8
Eating & Drinking Places	10.4	11.2	11.6	- 7.1	- 10.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	7.9	7.9	8.0	0.0	- 1.3
Services	33.8	34.7	29.8	- 2.6	13.4
Personal Services	1.7	1.8	2.0	- 5.6	- 15.0
Medical & Other Health Services	6.4	6.3	6.2	1.6	3.2
Government	52.5	53.4	49.8	- 1.7	5.4
Federal Government	6.6	7.6	6.1	- 13.2	8.2
State & Local Government	45.9	45.9	43.7	0.0	5.0
State Government	13.3	13.3	13.0	0.0	2.3
Local Government	32.5	32.6	30.7	- 0.3	5.9

(See Footnotes at End of Table)

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3 (Cont'd)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change on Total Emp.	
	NOV 1985[2]	OCT 1985[3]	NOV 1984	OCT 1985	NOV 1984
	Total	Total	Total	to NOV 1985	to NOV 1985
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	33.8	33.9	34.2	- 0.3	- 1.2
Manufacturing	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.0	- 12.5
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	32.2	32.6	33.0	- 1.2	- 2.4
Mining	4.5	4.5	5.5	0.0	- 18.2
Oil & Gas Extraction	4.2	4.1	5.0	2.4	- 16.0
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.0	- 20.0
Contract Construction	2.8	2.9	2.3	- 3.4	21.7
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.0	2.1	2.1	- 4.8	0.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	9.4	9.4	9.5	0.0	- 1.1
Wholesale Trade	3.5	3.6	3.5	- 2.8	0.0
Retail Trade	5.9	5.8	6.0	1.7	- 1.7
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.5	1.5	1.7	0.0	- 11.8
Services	5.7	5.8	5.9	- 1.7	- 3.4
Government	6.3	6.4	6.0	- 1.6	5.0
Federal Government	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.0	- 28.6
State & Local Government	5.8	5.8	5.3	0.0	9.4
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	30.4	31.0	30.2	- 1.9	0.7
Manufacturing	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	28.9	29.5	28.9	- 2.0	0.0
Contract Construction	1.1	1.3	1.4	- 15.4	- 21.4
Transportation & Public Utilities	3.9	4.2	3.5	- 7.1	11.4
Wholesale & Retail Trade	6.8	7.0	7.6	- 2.9	- 10.5
Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.0	- 11.1
Retail Trade	6.0	6.2	6.7	- 3.2	- 10.4
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	2.0	1.9	1.9	5.3	0.0
Services & Miscellaneous	5.2	5.2	5.1	0.0	2.0
Government	10.3	10.2	9.6	1.0	7.3
Federal Government	2.6	2.6	2.3	0.0	13.0
State & Local Government	7.7	7.6	7.3	1.3	5.5

[1] Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-ag, establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. [2] Subject to revision. [3] Revised figures.

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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

The *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* is published monthly by the Research and Analysis Section of the Wyoming Employment Security Commission, Dick Sadler, Executive Director.

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